

May 24, 2017

City Council
City and County of Honolulu
Committee on Public Works, Infrastructure and Sustainability
Councilwoman Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Testimony in Support of Bill 43

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The Honorable Carol Fukunaga:

We are in staunch support of Bill 43, relating to the Maintenance of Channels, Streambeds, Streambanks and Drainageways.

For years, the citizens living next to the Salt Lake drainageway have had to tolerate foul smells, over growth of algae, and an assortment of trash. It's simply inexcusable to tolerate this situation any longer.

When most of Salt Lake was filled in and turned into a golf course, owned and operated by the Honolulu Country Club, they took on the responsibility to maintain the drainageway. For several years, they fulfilled their obligation to the community and maintained it. I might add, this was done when the city put pressure on them to do so.

The Honolulu Country Club freely entered into this agreement to get what they wanted. After being successful in their quest, they made the decision not to fulfill the agreement. This was simply wrong and unacceptable. There is no excuse for this type of behavior on the part of an individual or an organization.

The condition of the drainageway is deplorable and a health concern for those of us living next to it. We are entering another summer of strong odors, decaying algae, and more trash accumulating along the banks of it.

We are pleading for relief from this insufferable situation and hope that the council will pass Bill 43 and send it on to the mayor for his signature.

It's time that the Honolulu Country Club is held to the same standard that all are held to. They need to fulfill their obligation and become a good neighbor.

Thank you,

Gary Griffiths, Vice President
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